

OCT 04 2001

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15 KATHARINE HALE: Katharine Hale,

16 K-a-t-h-a-r-i-n-e H-a-l-e.

17 I was a co-founding member with Susan Orr 26
18 years ago of Citizen Alert, so nuclear waste has been a
19 hobby of mine for a quarter of a century, which seems
20 kind of amazing, and I thought I would address a couple
21 of the points that I heard tonight.

22 I also descended from geologists, great
23 grandfather and grandfather were mining engineers, and
24 when we were testifying before the Nevada State
25 Legislature in 1975, I brought information about the

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1 tuff -- much of the area in Yucca Mountain is made of a
2 tuff, which is more of a porous material, more receptive
3 to migrating waters -- and I also brought many, many maps
4 from three geologists who loaned them to me. They didn't
5 care to speak, but they loaned them to me, showed our
6 legislators all of the existing caldera, which are
7 indicative of earthquake difficulties or problems perhaps
8 in the future, and as a 40-year resident of Nevada, I
9 have great experience with earthquakes also, as most of
10 us. We have the knowledge of the numbers of faults. So
11 some of these scientific difficulties have been put onto

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12 a political plate and the science is not entirely in,
13 although I do very highly respect the fact that a
14 geologist would take the time to come to speak because I
15 admire that field.

16 One of our concerns 26 years ago were all the
17 states that the waste would have to be brought through,
18 and when we traveled around Nevada, we spent a couple of
19 years going to all the small towns. We did get up to
20 Duckwater and to most of the Indian reservations in the
21 state, and a part of what we were trying to do was
22 explain the length of time and the number of states
23 affected.

24 In those days they wanted to store the waste
25 for 240,000 years. That estimate has been lowered to
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1 only 10,000 years, and there doesn't seem to be a real
2 reason for that adjustment in time, but the 43 to 46
3 states through whom -- through whose borders the waste
4 would travel is -- makes it a larger, less provincial,
5 less purely Nevada question, but much more of a national
6 question.

7 There were 11 sites in those days that were
8 under consideration, and we saw it narrowed down to three
9 and then narrowed down to one. When we spoke in those

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10 days -- and we speak of this even more profoundly in this
11 particular time -- we knew of terrorists then, 26 years
12 ago. We understood that terrorists might be very
13 interested in upsetting any of the ways that we knew then
14 to do the shipments, whether by train or by truck, and I
15 think that in this time the approach to preventing
16 terrorism as best we can would involve, first, largely
17 keeping the waste in the much stronger geological sites
18 that are almost pure granite near the locations of the
19 fission reactors in the states whose populace --
20 populations have benefited from the energy that was
21 garnered from the original reactor work.

22 We're also aware and were aware then that a
23 part of Nevada's job was likely to be to store the
24 fission reactors as they had to be decommissioned, and we
25 have one in storage now here in the state, at least

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1 that's my understanding that there's still only one, but
2 they usually have a 35-year life, and then they have to
3 be decommissioned, and we were on line for that.

4 Also at that time we were dealing with some
5 volatile young countries, dictatorships around the world,
6 and we have made them promise that they would ship their

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7 fission products, the waste products to us to store
8 rather than have them stored in a country which might use
9 the plutonium in an offensive way from our then political
10 standpoint, foreign policy standpoint. So the truth is
11 Nevada has never been informed as to the amount that
12 might come here.

13 And finally, because I recognize that I'm
14 taking too much time, as always, the best gift I think
15 that Susan Orr and I brought to Nevada when we traveled
16 the state in those long-ago days was the tendency then to
17 speak of alternative energy sources, and as each energy
18 source came in, first wood, then coal, then oil, it was
19 subsidized for a period of time until it was able to make
20 it on its own financially.

21 The nuclear fission industry -- I do
22 recognize fusion we haven't quite figured out yet except
23 for the sun -- but the nuclear fission industry has never
24 gotten off the government teat, and I think at this point
25 they really should have been weaned and be able to make a
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1 profit on their own. We are a capitalistic country, so
2 our words for -- instead of alternative energy sources,
3 we refer to primary energy sources. The primary energy
4 sources are the solar and the wind and the sources

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5 that -- Nevada in particular has geothermal sources.

6 There is not as much of a necessity to turn to an

7 unproven industry that is not even able to make it on its

8 own financially, and I would like very much, because of

9 Nevada's number of land lays, which means we have so much

10 solar energy to us, I would like to see us promote more

11 of that, become the primary state of the primary energy

12 sources.

13 Thank you so much for listening. I just

14 can't believe we're still doing this after a quarter of a

15 century, but it's very cheerful that the process still

16 exists.

17 Thank you.